SUPERMAN • DC • NATIONAL COMICS
12¢
DEC.
NO. 144
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BAT MAN
THREE EXCITING STORIES!
"BAT-MITE MEETS BAT-GIRL!"
"ALIEN FEUD ON EARTH!"
"The MAN WHO PLAYED BATMAN!"
HA-HA! ROBIN DOESN'T KNOW I'M HELPING BAT-GIRL LOOK TERRIFIC IN SNARING THIS RUNAWAY TIGER-- WHICH I'M CONTROLLING!

"Add 3 INCHES of steel-like Muscles to Your ARMS

4 Power-packed inches to your chest...FAST"

...IN JUST 30 DAYS!

LET ME SLAP 5 TO 50 POUNDS OF DYNAMIC, VIRILE MUSCLES ON YOUR BODY

... turn you into a rugged HE-MAN ... load your body with jet-charged power, thick Herculean arms ... deep massive chest ... atomic-powered legs ... shoulders a "yard-wide" ... with power oozing from every pore of your new power-packed body ... FAST ... and right in the the privacy of your own home!

BOB BURKE ... MR. UNIVERSE WINNER proudly flexes the mighty 18-inch arm I built for him ... arms that can tear telephone books in half, rip chains apart, break spikes and lift 450 pounds. Yes, Bob once had 11-inch arms before taking my course. Wouldn't you like to own a Herculean arm like this? Well, what are you waiting for ... rush in this FREE COUPON ... NOW!

ALL I NEED is 15 MINUTES

to prove that you can have that *rugged, virile, he-man body*, loaded with action, will-power and the dynamic personality you've always wanted.

In half the time with twice the ease, in the privacy of your own room, in just a few minutes daily I will — through my TRIPLE-PROGRESSION COURSE — slap inches of steel-like muscles on your pipestem arms ... pack your chest with power and size ... give you lifeguard shoulders ... dynamic, speedy, athletic legs ... add jet-charged strength to every muscle of your body. I don't care if you're short or tall ... skinny or fat ... office-worker, laborer, student or business man. I MUST make a new virile he-man out of you and help you build tremendous "inner strength" that will give you that virile look that men envy and women admire. What I did for BOB BURKE, ANDRE LEPINE and other *Mr. America* and *Mr. Universe* winners and thousands of former weaklings, *I can do for you!* Yes, I can turn you into a real HE-MAN!

HERE'S LIVING PROOF! Andre Lepine gains 80 pounds!

BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE mailing the coupon ... 100 pounds of skin and bones! What a rundown wreck! He had 10-inch pipestem arms ... a flat 34-inch chest. Truly a pathetic case of weakness before he mailed me this coupon! **AFTER** Weider Training! What a *Change!* What a *Build!* 180 pounds ... a mountain of mighty muscles with Herculean 17-inch arms ... magnificent 48-inch chest and shoulders a yard wide. Another dream come true!

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Let ME prove to you at my own expense that everything I say can be done!

It's YOURS FREE! No Obligation!

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Fill out coupon and mail to me. I'll rush you my GIANT 48-page course filled with exercises, training secrets, heroic photos of the mighty champions and private advice on how you can become a muscle star FAST! A-C-T-I-O-N is the *key to strength*. Make your first he-man decision today. Rush in this coupon for your free trial course. You have nothing to lose *but your weakness!*

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I guarantee to show you how to add twice as much muscle ... triple your power ... gain more weight twice as fast through my system of training than you could through any other method ... and in HALF THE TIME! I challenge any other physical instructor in the world who teaches through the mails to accept my challenge!

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Shoot the works, Joe! Rush me my FREE Introductory *Power-Packed Muscle-Building Course.* ✓ Check which gains you want to make.

I want ☐ Bigger arms. ☐ Larger neck. ☐ Deeper chest. ☐ Trimmer waist. ☐ Athletic legs. ☐ Added weight. ☐ Broader shoulders. ☐ More endurance and power.

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(Please print plainly)

In Canada: Write Joe Weider, 2875 Bates Road, Montreal, Que., Canada

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THEY CAME FROM ANOTHER PLANET--AND THEY WERE SELFISHLY INDIFFERENT TO INNOCENT PEOPLE WHO MIGHT BE HARMED AS THEY MADE GOTHAM CITY A BATTLE-GROUND FOR THEIR PERSONAL WAR! ONLY THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTERS DARED TO TRACK THEM DOWN! ONLY BATMAN AND ROBIN DARED TO RISK DEATH IN THE CROSSFIRE FROM...
BATMAN
WITH ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
the ALIEN FEUD on EARTH
GREAT SCOTT! WE'VE WALKED RIGHT INTO THE MIDDLE OF TWO DUELING ALIENS!
YES--BUT INSTEAD OF GETTING EACH OTHER, THEY MAY GET US!
BOB KANE

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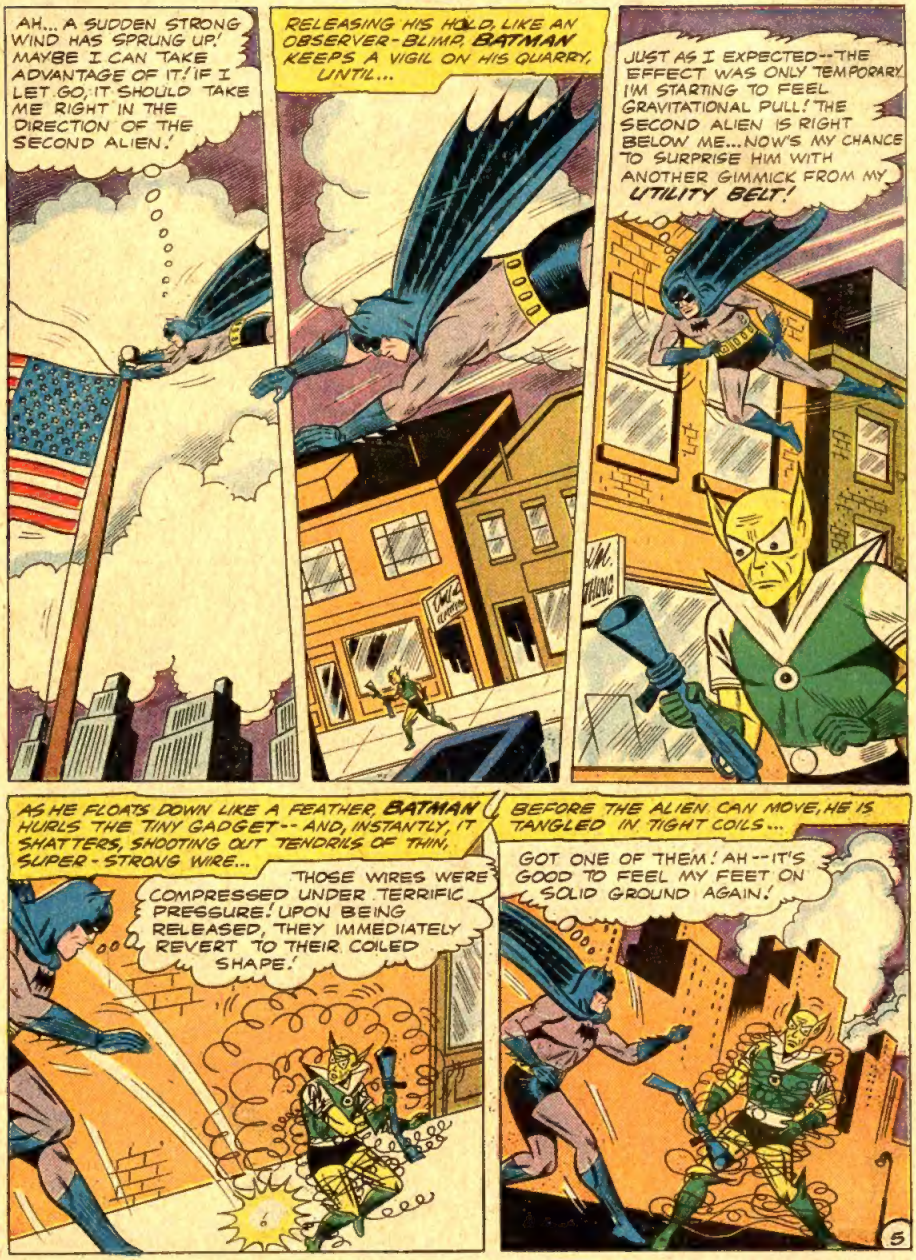
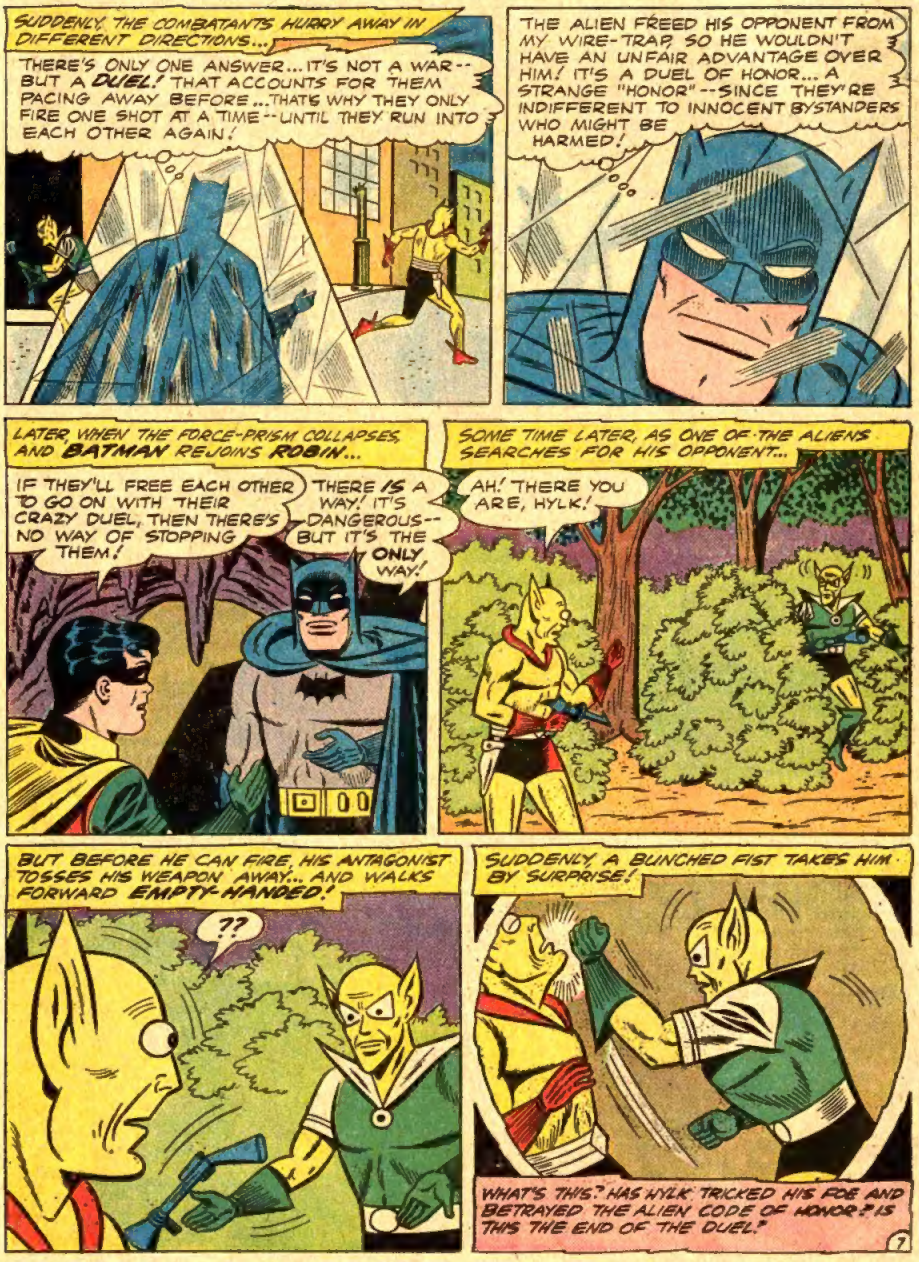
ONE NIGHT, AS TWO FAMED CRIME-FIGHTERS MAKE THEIR ROUNDS OF GOTHAM CITY...
BATMAN... HURRY! CLIMBING UP TO A ROOF -- SOME KIND OF MAN--IN A CRAZY COSTUME...
BETTER TAKE US TO WHERE YOU SAW HIM, BOY...
SOON, UPON REACHING THE ROOFTOP...
G-GOLLY!... AM I SEEING THINGS, BATMAN?
NO, ROBIN!... THAT'S AN ALIEN-- ARMED WITH SOME KIND OF WEAPON... AND HE'S GOING TO FIRE IT AT US!
Z Z Z Z Z
DOWN, ROBIN!
WILD SHOTS... THEY WENT WAY OVER OUR HEADS!
HIS WEAPON IS SOME KIND OF DISINTEGRATOR... LOOK WHAT IT DID TO THAT BILLBOARD!
OH, NO--! COMING OUT FROM BEHIND THAT BILLBOARD-- ANOTHER ALIEN!
HE'S RAISING HIS WEAPON, TOO! WE'RE TRAPPED, BATMAN--RIGHT BETWEEN THEIR CROSSFIRE!
2

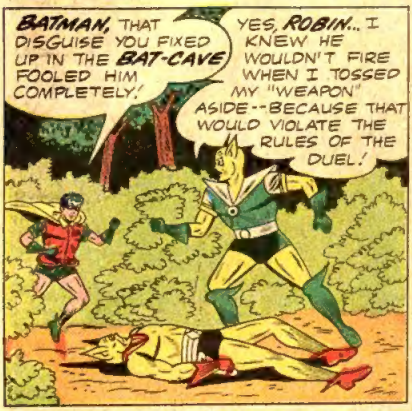
BUT AGAIN, A MIRACLE SEEMS TO OCCUR, AS...
HIS WEAPON'S SHOOTING FLAME... BUT BOTH OF THEM HAVE TERRIBLE AIM!
YES--HE ALMOST HIT HIS PARTNER THAT TIME!
NO--WAIT! THEY WEREN'T FIRING AT US--BUT AT EACH OTHER! SEE HOW THEY'RE SHAKING THEIR FISTS AT ONE ANOTHER?
LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE BOTH HAD ENOUGH FOR A WHILE--THEY'RE RUNNING AWAY! NOW WHAT?
NOW WE'VE GOT TO MAKE CERTAIN NOBODY'S TRAPPED IN THE APARTMENT HOUSE THAT SECOND ALIEN SET AFIRE!
AND AS THE PAIR CARRIES OUT A SWIFT RESCUE OPERATION...
ALIENS--USING GOTHAM CITY AS A BATTLEGROUND... AND NOT EVEN CARING IF THEY HURT INNOCENT PEOPLE! BUT WHY ARE THEY FIGHTING EACH OTHER?
I WISH I KNEW! WE'D BETTER GO TO THE BAT-CAVE TO GET THOSE NEW GADGETS I'VE INVENTED FOR MY UTILITY BELT! WE'LL NEED SPECIAL GIMMICKS TO COMBAT THE ALIENS' WEAPONS!
LATER, FOLLOWING UP A PASSERBY'S TIP, BATMAN AND ROBIN TRACK DOWN ONE OF THE ALIENS...
THERE HE IS--TRYING TO PICK UP HIS ENEMY'S TRAIL!
BEFORE YOU TRY ANY FANCY GADGET, LET'S SEE HOW A BATARANG DOES...
3

BUT, SENSING DANGER, THE ALIEN WHIRLS AND...
GREAT SCOTT! THOSE STUDS 'GIVE THE ALIEN'S WEAPON A VARIETY OF POWERS.' HE SENT THE BATARANG RIGHT BACK AT ROBIN, WITH A REPELLER-RAY.'
OOF!
QUICKLY, BATMAN'S HAND DIPS TO HIS UTILITY BELT, AND HURLS A CAPSULE...
THAT LUMINOUS DUST CLOUD SHOULD DAZZLE HIS EYES LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO OVERCOME HIM...
BUT THE ALIEN, UNAFFECTED BY SUDDEN LIGHT, COUNTERS WITH ANOTHER EERIE RAY...
WHAT--? I'M FLOATING! THAT STRANGE RAY HAS MADE ME LIGHTER THAN AIR.'
AGAIN, BATMAN REACHES TO HIS UTILITY BELT, UNREELS THE BAT-ROPE, AND...
THAT FLAGPOLE'S MY ONLY CHANCE... OTHERWISE, I'LL FLOAT UP INTO THE STRATOSPHERE.'
THE ALIEN WHO FIRED THE ANTI-GRAVITY RAY HAS RUN OFF--BUT NOW I CAN SEE THE SECOND ALIEN!'
4


AH... A SUDDEN STRONG WIND HAS SPRUNG UP! MAYBE I CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT! IF I LET GO, IT SHOULD TAKE ME RIGHT IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SECOND ALIEN!
RELEASING HIS HOLD, LIKE AN OBSERVER-BLIMP, BATMAN KEEPS A VIGIL ON HIS QUARRY, UNTIL...
JUST AS I EXPECTED--THE EFFECT WAS ONLY TEMPORARY. I'M STARTING TO FEEL GRAVITATIONAL PULL! THE SECOND ALIEN IS RIGHT BELOW ME...NOW'S MY CHANCE TO SURPRISE HIM WITH ANOTHER GIMMICK FROM MY UTILITY BELT!
AS HE FLOATS DOWN LIKE A FEATHER, BATMAN HURLS THE TINY GADGET -- AND, INSTANTLY, IT SHATTERS, SHOOTING OUT TENDRILS OF THIN, SUPER-STRONG WIRE...
THOSE WIRES WERE COMPRESSED UNDER TERRIFIC PRESSURE! UPON BEING RELEASED, THEY IMMEDIATELY REVERT TO THEIR COILED SHAPE!
BEFORE THE ALIEN CAN MOVE, HE IS TANGLED IN TIGHT COILS...
GOT ONE OF THEM! AH--IT'S GOOD TO FEEL MY FEET ON SOLID GROUND AGAIN!

A MOMENT LATER...
THE OTHER ALIEN!
AND BEFORE BATMAN CAN ACT...
HE'S IMPRISONED ME IN A PRISM-SHAPED FORCE-SCREEN! NOW I CAN'T DO A THING TO STOP HIM FROM KILLING HIS HELPLESS ENEMY!
BUT THE ALIEN'S NEXT MOVE IS A STRANGE ONE INDEED...
THAT ODD FORCE--IT'S DISSOLVING THE WIRES! HE'S FREEING HIM!
FOR A MOMENT, THE FREED ALIEN AND HIS LIBERATOR NOD CURTLY--THEN...
NOW THEY'VE TURNED THEIR BACKS ON EACH OTHER--AND ARE WALKING AWAY...
GREAT SCOTT! THEY'VE RESUMED THEIR WAR AGAIN!


SUDDENLY, THE COMBATANTS HURRY AWAY IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS...
THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER... IT'S NOT A WAR--BUT A DUEL! THAT ACCOUNTS FOR THEM PACING AWAY BEFORE... THAT'S WHY THEY ONLY FIRE ONE SHOT AT A TIME--UNTIL THEY RUN INTO EACH OTHER AGAIN!
THE ALIEN FREED HIS OPPONENT FROM MY WIRE-TRAP, SO HE WOULDN'T HAVE AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OVER HIM! IT'S A DUEL OF HONOR... A STRANGE "HONOR"--SINCE THEY'RE INDIFFERENT TO INNOCENT BYSTANDERS WHO MIGHT BE HARMED!
LATER, WHEN THE FORCE-PRISM COLLAPSES, AND BATMAN REJOINS ROBIN...
IF THEY'LL FREE EACH OTHER TO GO ON WITH THEIR CRAZY DUEL, THEN THERE'S NO WAY OF STOPPING THEM!
THERE IS A WAY! IT'S DANGEROUS--BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY!
SOME TIME LATER, AS ONE OF THE ALIENS SEARCHES FOR HIS OPPONENT...
AH! THERE YOU ARE, HYLK!
BUT BEFORE HE CAN FIRE, HIS ANTAGONIST TOSSES HIS WEAPON AWAY... AND WALKS FORWARD EMPTY-HANDED!
??
SUDDENLY, A BUNCHED FIST TAKES HIM BY SURPRISE!
WHAT'S THIS? HAS HYLK TRICKED HIS FOE AND BETRAYED THE ALIEN CODE OF HONOR? IS THIS THE END OF THE DUEL?

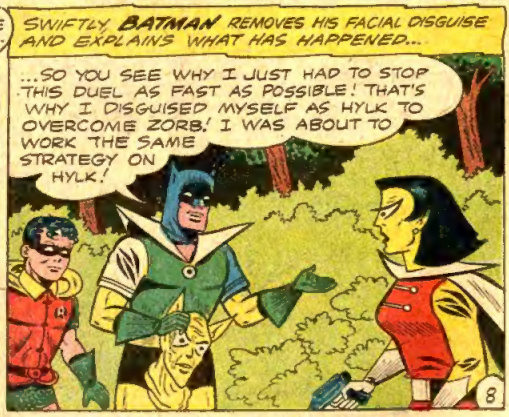

BATMAN, THAT DISGUISE YOU FIXED UP IN THE BAT-CAVE FOOLED HIM COMPLETELY.
YES, ROBIN... I KNEW HE WOULDN'T FIRE WHEN I TOSSED MY "WEAPON" ASIDE--BECAUSE THAT WOULD VIOLATE THE RULES OF THE DUEL.

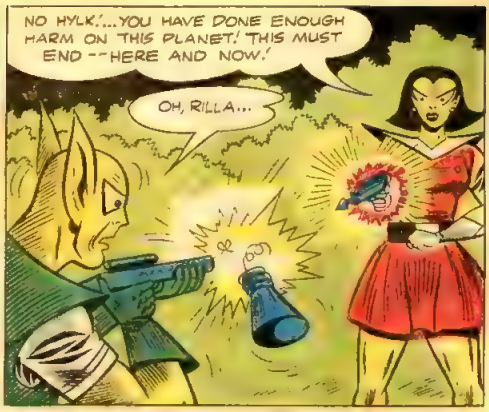
ZORB WAS EASY TO FIND BECAUSE HE STILL HAD TRACES OF THAT LUMINOUS POWDER ON HIM.
YES--AND THAT POWDER CONTAINS A HARMLESS CHEMICAL THAT LEAVES AN INVISIBLE TRAIL. THIS DEVICE--WHICH ACTS THE WAY A GEIGER COUNTER DOES WITH RADIO-ACTIVE MATERIAL--PICKED UP HIS TRAIL EASILY.
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK

NOW WHAT?
THE REAL HYLK SHOULD BE COMING ALONG SHORTLY... SO I'LL SIMPLY TAKE ZORB'S CLOTHES, USE MAKEUP TO DISGUISE MY FACE LIKE ZORB'S--AND THEN PULL THE SAME TRICK ON HYLK.

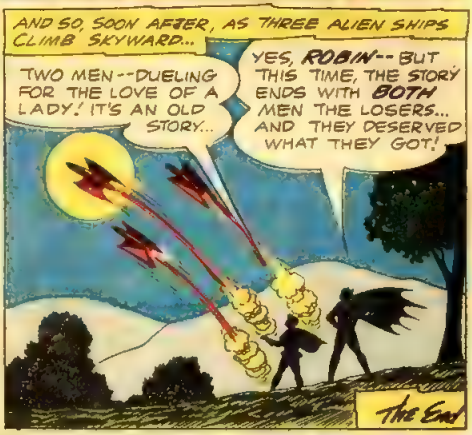
BUT, WITHOUT WARNING...
A THIRD ALIEN!
A WOMAN!

HYLK! YOU KNEW I WOULD NOT APPROVE OF YOU AND ZORB DUELING OVER ME--SO YOU THOUGHT TO KEEP THE DUEL SECRET BY COMING HERE TO THIS FARAWAY PLANET!
WAIT! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I'M NOT HYLK!


SWIFTLY, BATMAN REMOVES HIS FACIAL DISGUISE AND EXPLAINS WHAT HAS HAPPENED...
...SO YOU SEE WHY I JUST HAD TO STOP THIS DUEL AS FAST AS POSSIBLE! THAT'S WHY I DISGUISED MYSELF AS HYLK TO OVERCOME ZORB! I WAS ABOUT TO WORK THE SAME STRATEGY ON HYLK!



LATER, AFTER ZORB HAS RECOVERED..
IN YOUR SELFISHNESS, YOU NEVER THOUGHT OF THE HARM YOU WERE DOING TO EARTHLINGS! YOU ARE BOTH CONCEITED, STUPID FOOLS--AND I WILL NOT MARRY EITHER ONE OF YOU!
AW RILLA..
BUT, RILLA..
9


AND SO, SOON AFTER, AS THREE ALIEN SHIPS CLIMB SKYWARD..
TWO MEN--DUELING FOR THE LOVE OF A LADY! IT'S AN OLD STORY..
YES, ROBIN--BUT THIS TIME, THE STORY ENDS WITH BOTH MEN THE LOSERS... AND THEY DESERVED WHAT THEY GOT!
THE END

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America was their goal.
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They were looking for
Delicious Tootsie Roll
AMERICA'S FAVORITE CANDY!
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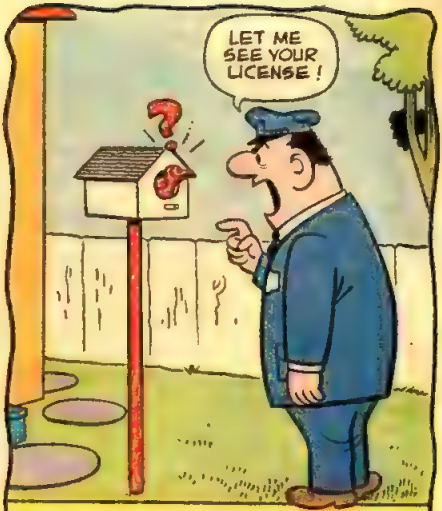
STRANGE LAWS

A KANSAS LAW PROHIBITS BAND PLAYING IN A POLITICAL PARADE.



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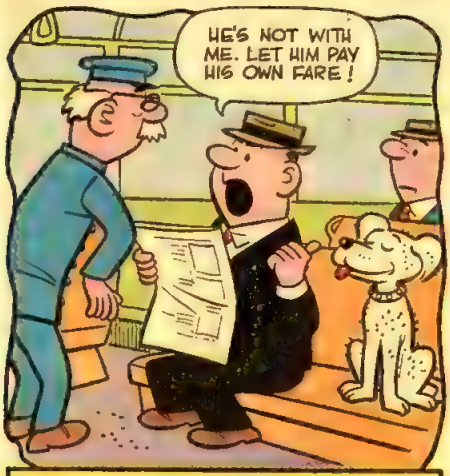

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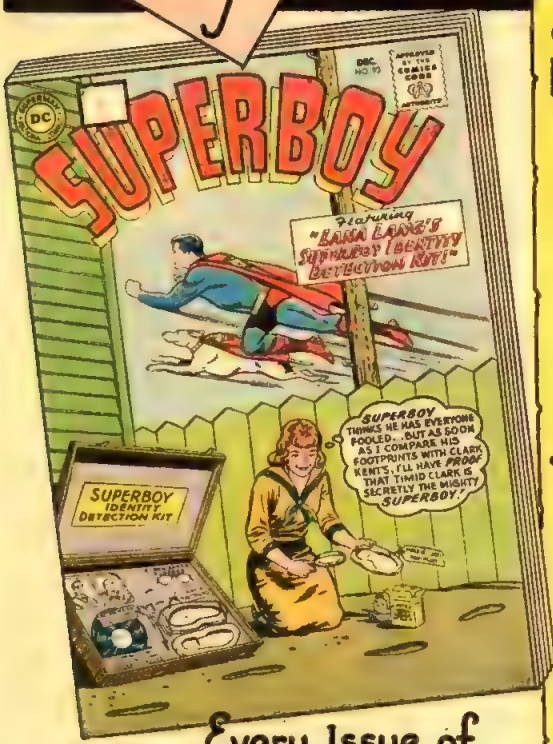
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Featuring "LANA LANG'S SUPERBOY IDENTITY DETECTION KIT!"
SUPERBOY IDENTITY DETECTION KIT
SUPERBOY THINKS HE HAS EVERYONE FOOLED...BUT AS SOON AS I COMPARE HIS FOOTPRINTS WITH CLARK KENT'S, I'LL HAVE PROOF THAT TIMID CLARK IS SECRETLY THE MIGHTY SUPERBOY!

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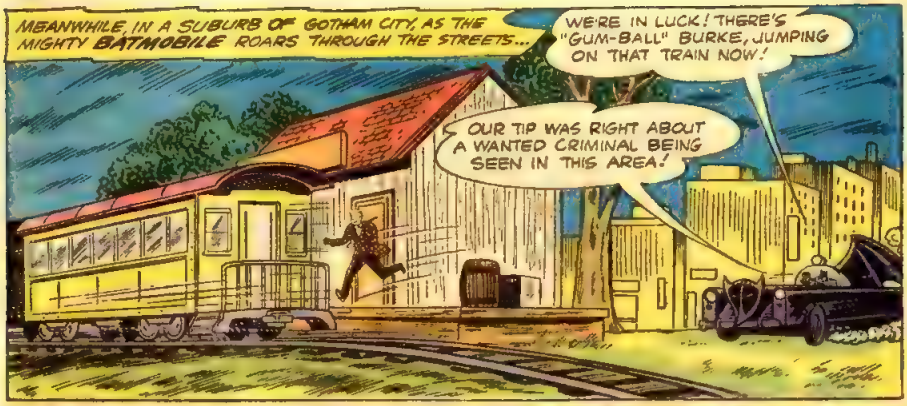
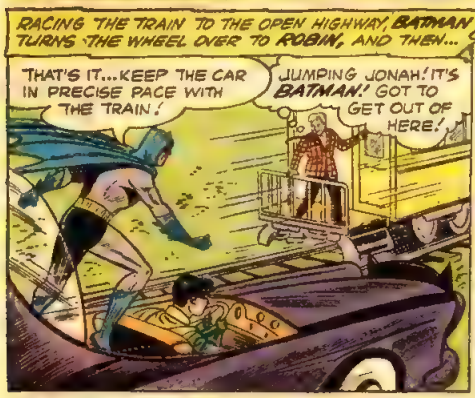
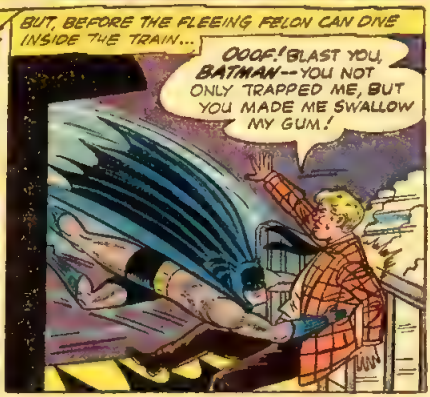
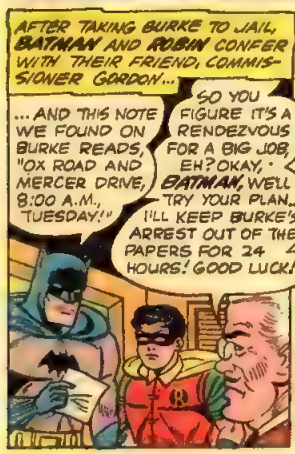
TIME AND AGAIN, THE JOKER, THAT FAMED FUNNY MAN OF FELONY, HAS TRIED TO PLAY HOB WITH LAW AND ORDER--AND EACH TIME, BATMAN AND ROBIN PROVED HIS UNDOING! BUT THIS TIME, THE CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME IS DETERMINED TO BUILD A GANG THAT EVEN BATMAN CAN'T COUNTER--AND, TO DO SO... THE JOKER HIMSELF BECOMES...
BATMAN
with ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
the MAN who PLAYED BATMAN
GREAT SCOTT! THEY'VE GOT ME TRAPPED UP HERE LIKE A SWINGING TARGET IN A SHOOTING GALLERY!
NOW WE KNOW HE'S THE REAL BATMAN, BOYS! GET HIM!
BANG! BANG!
BANG! BANG!
BOB KANE

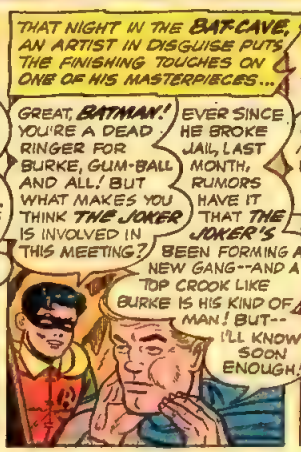
IT'S NEAR SUNDOWN, AS TWO STEALTHY FIGURES SLIP FROM THE SHADOWS OF A COLORFUL BUILDING...
OKAY, LENNY, WE GOT THE CLUB'S RECEIPTS... LET'S SCRAM!
RED MILL INN
YOU BOYS DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD GET AWAY THAT EASY, DID YOU?
WHOA! HERE COMES TROUBLE, DAN-- BATMAN TROUBLE!
OOF!
CRACK!
UGH!
BUT WAIT!.. WHO'S THIS, REMOVING THE BATMAN MASK AND COWL?..
YOU FOOLS FAILED MY TEST! I'M OUT TO BUILD A BATMAN-PROOF GANG! THAT'S WHY I'M IMPERSONATING BATMAN FOR THESE MOCK CRIMES -- TO TEST YOUR ABILITY TO COMBAT THE REAL BATMAN!
YES, IT'S THE JOKER, CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME... BATMAN'S ARCH-ENEMY...
I'VE SPENT A FORTUNE BUILDING THESE "SETS" OF GOTHAM CITY STREETS, TO MAKE THE PROBLEMS REALISTIC--BUT YOU GOOFED ON YOUR FIRST TEST! TAKE THEM AWAY, BLINKY... WE'LL TRY SOME OTHERS TOMORROW!
CHECK, BOSS!

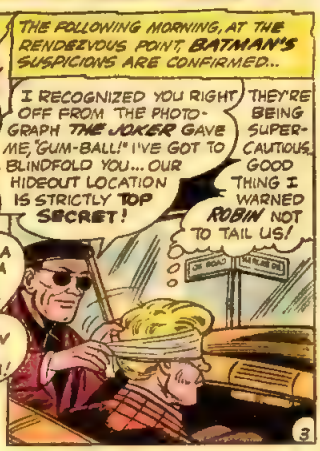

MEANWHILE, IN A SUBURB OF GOTHAM CITY, AS THE MIGHTY BATMOBILE ROARS THROUGH THE STREETS...
WE'RE IN LUCK! THERE'S "GUM-BALL" BURKE, JUMPING ON THAT TRAIN NOW!
OUR TIP WAS RIGHT ABOUT A WANTED CRIMINAL BEING SEEN IN THIS AREA!

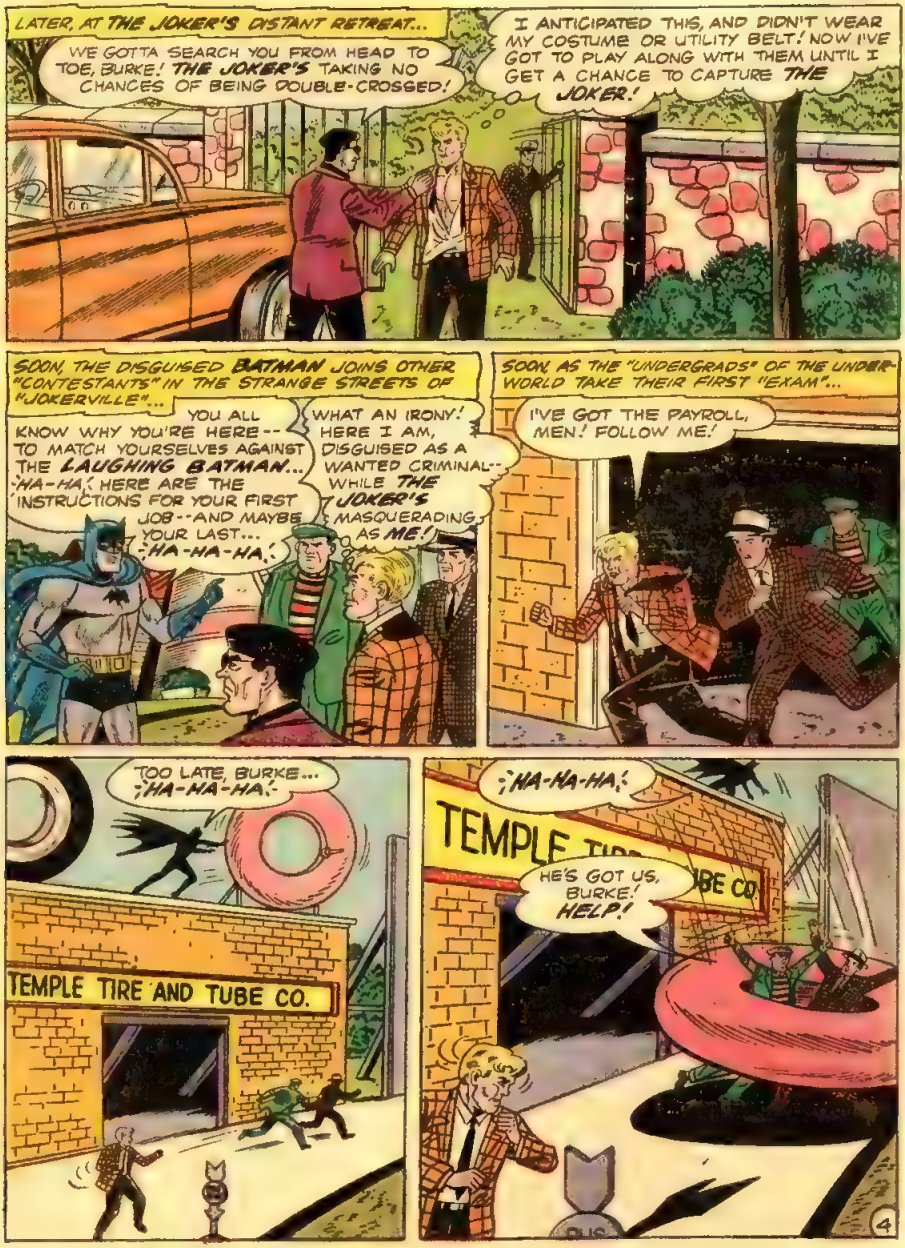

RACING THE TRAIN TO THE OPEN HIGHWAY, BATMAN TURNS THE WHEEL OVER TO ROBIN, AND THEN...
THAT'S IT...KEEP THE CAR IN PRECISE PACE WITH THE TRAIN!
JUMPING JONAH! IT'S BATMAN! GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

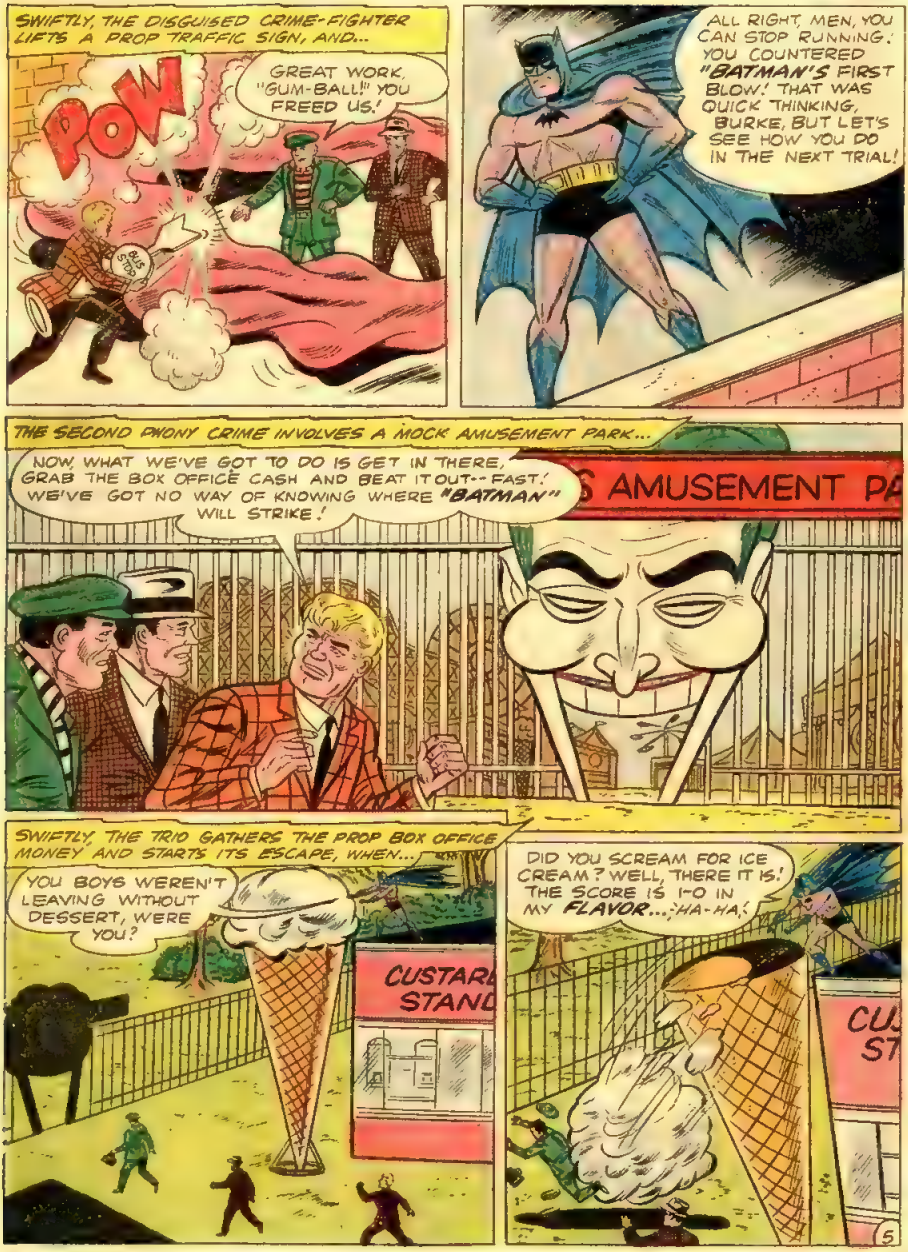

BUT, BEFORE THE FLEEING FELON CAN DINE INSIDE THE TRAIN...
OOOF! BLAST YOU, BATMAN--YOU NOT ONLY TRAPPED ME, BUT YOU MADE ME SWALLOW MY GUM!


AFTER TAKING BURKE TO JAIL, BATMAN AND ROBIN CONFER WITH THEIR FRIEND, COMMISSIONER GORDON...
...AND THIS NOTE WE FOUND ON BURKE READS, "OX ROAD AND MERCER DRIVE, 8:00 A.M., TUESDAY!"
SO YOU FIGURE IT'S A RENDEZVOUS FOR A BIG JOB, EH? OKAY, BATMAN, WE'LL TRY YOUR PLAN... I'LL KEEP BURKE'S ARREST OUT OF THE PAPERS FOR 24 HOURS! GOOD LUCK!


THAT NIGHT IN THE BAT-CAVE, AN ARTIST IN DISGUISE PUTS THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON ONE OF HIS MASTERPIECES...
GREAT, BATMAN! YOU'RE A DEAD RINGER FOR BURKE, GUM-BALL AND ALL! BUT WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THE JOKER IS INVOLVED IN THIS MEETING?
EVER SINCE HE BROKE JAIL, LAST MONTH, RUMORS HAVE IT THAT THE JOKER'S BEEN FORMING A NEW GANG--AND A TOP CROOK LIKE BURKE IS HIS KIND OF MAN! BUT--I'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH!

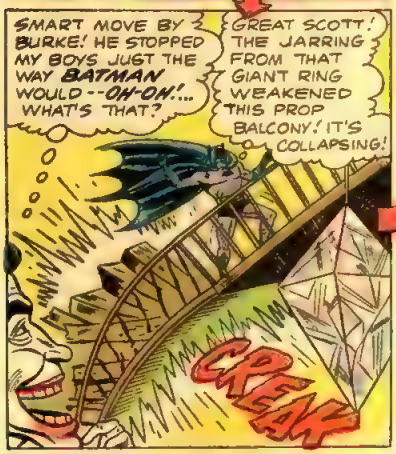

THE FOLLOWING MORNING, AT THE RENDEZVOUS POINT, BATMAN'S SUSPICIONS ARE CONFIRMED...
I RECOGNIZED YOU RIGHT OFF FROM THE PHOTOGRAPH THE JOKER GAVE ME, "GUM-BALL!" I'VE GOT TO BLINDFOLD YOU... OUR HIDEOUT LOCATION IS STRICTLY TOP SECRET!
THEY'RE BEING SUPER-CAUTIOUS. GOOD THING I WARNED ROBIN NOT TO TAIL US!
OX ROAD
MERCER DRIVE

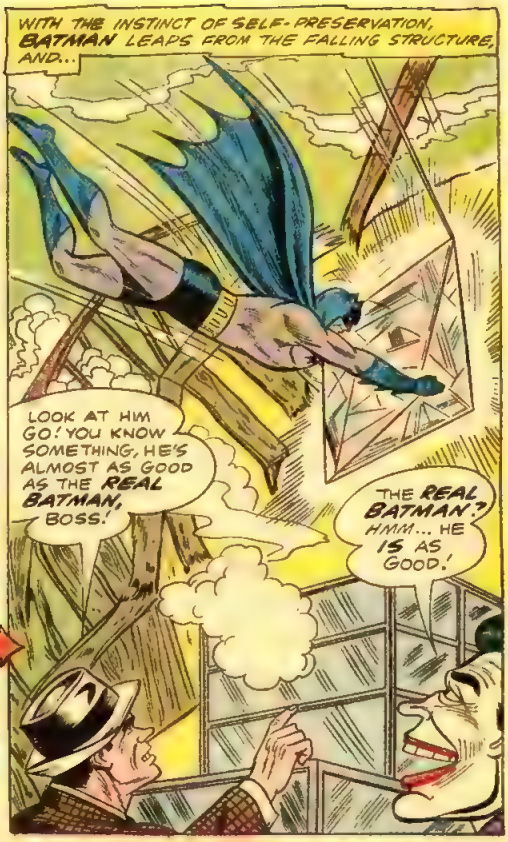

LATER, AT THE JOKER'S DISTANT RETREAT...
WE GOTTA SEARCH YOU FROM HEAD TO TOE, BURKE! THE JOKER'S TAKING NO CHANCES OF BEING DOUBLE-CROSSED!
I ANTICIPATED THIS, AND DIDN'T WEAR MY COSTUME OR UTILITY BELT! NOW I'VE GOT TO PLAY ALONG WITH THEM UNTIL I GET A CHANCE TO CAPTURE THE JOKER!
SOON, THE DISGUISED BATMAN JOINS OTHER "CONTESTANTS" IN THE STRANGE STREETS OF "JOKERVILLE"...
YOU ALL KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE--TO MATCH YOURSELVES AGAINST THE LAUGHING BATMAN... ;HA-HA-HA;! HERE ARE THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR FIRST JOB--AND MAYBE YOUR LAST... ;HA-HA-HA;!
WHAT AN IRONY! HERE I AM, DISGUISED AS A WANTED CRIMINAL--WHILE THE JOKER'S MASQUERADING AS ME!
SOON, AS THE "UNDERGRADS" OF THE UNDERWORLD TAKE THEIR FIRST "EXAM"...
I'VE GOT THE PAYROLL, MEN! FOLLOW ME!
TOO LATE, BURKE... ;HA-HA-HA;!
TEMPLE TIRE AND TUBE CO.
;HA-HA-HA;!
HE'S GOT US, BURKE! HELP!
TEMPLE TIR
BE CO
4

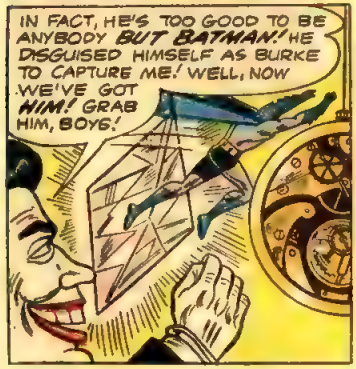

SWIFTLY, THE DISGUISED CRIME-FIGHTER LIFTS A PROP TRAFFIC SIGN, AND...
POW
GREAT WORK, "GUM-BALL!" YOU FREED US!
BUS STOP
ALL RIGHT, MEN, YOU CAN STOP RUNNING. YOU COUNTERED "BATMAN'S" FIRST BLOW! THAT WAS QUICK THINKING, BURKE, BUT LET'S SEE HOW YOU DO IN THE NEXT TRIAL!
THE SECOND PHONY CRIME INVOLVES A MOCK AMUSEMENT PARK...
NOW WHAT WE'VE GOT TO DO IS GET IN THERE, GRAB THE BOX OFFICE CASH AND BEAT IT OUT--FAST! WE'VE GOT NO WAY OF KNOWING WHERE "BATMAN" WILL STRIKE!
AMUSEMENT PA
SWIFTLY, THE TRIO GATHERS THE PROP BOX OFFICE MONEY AND STARTS ITS ESCAPE, WHEN...
YOU BOYS WEREN'T LEAVING WITHOUT DESSERT, WERE YOU?
CUSTARD STAND
DID YOU SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM? WELL, THERE IT IS! THE SCORE IS 1-0 IN MY FLAVOR...;HA-HA!
5

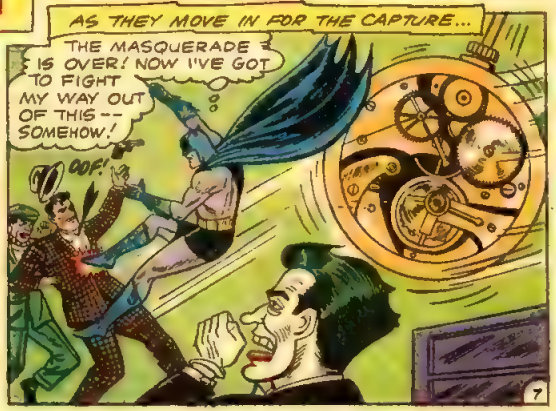
HERE'S A CAP FOR YOU DUNCES...HA-HA HA!
YOU HAVEN'T GOT ME YET!
CLUNK!
INSTANTLY, THE DISGUISED BATMAN PULLS THE CONE FROM THE IMPRISONED CROOK, AND...
YOU GUYS TAKE THAT LOOT AND SCRAM...I'LL HOLD HIM OFF!
GREAT!
THEN, WITH THE OTHERS SAFELY OUTSIDE, HE INVERTS THE CONE, AND...
NOW WE FEED "BATMAN" HIS OWN DESSERT--BLOCKING THE EXIT!
AMUSEME
NICE GOING, BURKE--YOU BOTTLED HIM UP INSIDE THE PARK!
SHORTLY...
YEAH--NICE GOING, BURKE! IN FACT, YOU DID SUCH A GOOD JOB THAT I'LL LET YOU PLAY BATMAN THIS TIME, SO I CAN GET SOME PRACTICE LEADING THE BOYS AGAINST YOU! YOU CAN WEAR MY COSTUME!
WITH THIS PLACE SO HEAVILY GUARDED, I'VE JUST GOT TO GO ALONG WITH HIM UNTIL I CAN GET THE UPPER HAND! IMAGINE, HE WANTS THE REAL BATMAN TO PRETEND TO BE BATMAN!
LATER AT A MOCK-UP OF THE GOTHAM JEWELRY CENTER...
OKAY, BOYS, UP THAT WAY! THE SAFE IS UPSTAIRS!
WELCOME, JOKER! YOU'RE JUST IN TIME FOR THE WEDDING PARTY! I'VE EVEN GOT THE RING FOR YOU!

POW!
UGH!
OOF!


SMART MOVE BY BURKE! HE STOPPED MY BOYS JUST THE WAY BATMAN WOULD--OH-OH!... WHAT'S THAT?
GREAT SCOTT! THE JARRING FROM THAT GIANT RING WEAKENED THIS PROP BALCONY! IT'S COLLAPSING!
CREAK


WITH THE INSTINCT OF SELF-PRESERVATION, BATMAN LEAPS FROM THE FALLING STRUCTURE, AND..
LOOK AT HIM GO! YOU KNOW SOMETHING, HE'S ALMOST AS GOOD AS THE REAL BATMAN, BOSS!
THE REAL BATMAN? HMM... HE IS AS GOOD!


IN FACT, HE'S TOO GOOD TO BE ANYBODY BUT BATMAN! HE DISGUISED HIMSELF AS BURKE TO CAPTURE ME! WELL, NOW WE'VE GOT HIM! GRAB HIM, BOYS!


AS THEY MOVE IN FOR THE CAPTURE...
THE MASQUERADE IS OVER! NOW I'VE GOT TO FIGHT MY WAY OUT OF THIS--SOMEHOW!
OOF!

BUT, AS BATMAN RISES FROM THE FALLEN FELONS...
ALL RIGHT, BATMAN, THIS IS THE END OF THE GAME! I'M HOLDING A REAL GUN, NOT A PROP!
I'VE HAD IT.
AT THAT MOMENT, HOWEVER, A FAMILIAR VOICE RINGS OUT...
IT'S ALL RIGHT, BATMAN-- WE'RE HERE! WE GOT YOUR SIGNAL!
WHAT--?
THANKS FOR THE DIVERSION, ROBIN! ALL I NEEDED WAS ONE POKE AT THE JOKER!
8
AND SO WITH THE OTHER CRIMINALS IN CUSTODY...
JUST ANSWER ONE THING, BATMAN... WHAT DID YOU USE TO SIGNAL ROBIN, AFTER WE SEARCHED YOU SO THOROUGHLY?
YOUR BOYS OVERLOOKED ONE THING-- THIS "GUM-BALL" IN MY MOUTH! IT'S NOT THE KIND BURKE CHEWS... IT'S GOT A SMALL DIRECTIONAL RADIO INSIDE IT, AND THAT'S WHAT SIGNALED YOUR END!
the End

ADVERTISEMENT

Dear Editor: When BATMAN or ROBIN overcome crooks with sleeping gas pellets from their utility belts, how come they themselves aren't affected by the gas?

Daryl Drew, Burnaby, Canada

(BATMAN and ROBIN have tiny filter plugs which they insert in their noses whenever they anticipate using any of their gas pellets. Like regular gas masks, these plugs filter out noxious elements in the air.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: In a recent story, "THE CHARMED LIFE OF BATMAN," you show SUPERMAN being weakened by *blue kryptonite*. Shouldn't the color of that kryptonite have been *green?*

Tom Finney, Opa-Locka, Fla.

(You're absolutely right, Tom—that kryptonite should have been colored green. In the engraving process, we combine yellow ink with blue ink, to create the color green. In this instance, the yellow wasn't added to the blue.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: I enjoyed reading Alfred the butler's Tales of the Future about THE SECOND BATMAN AND ROBIN TEAM, where Dick Grayson grows up to become the new BATMAN and Bruce Wayne marries Kathy Kane and their son becomes the new ROBIN. Are you going to have any more?

Hugh Roberts, St. Paul, Minn.

(You'll be reading another adventure of THE SECOND BATMAN AND ROBIN TEAM in the FEBRUARY issue of BATMAN COMICS, No. 145. In fact, there's a big surprise in store for you, when the caped crime-fighters of the future match wits with "THE SON OF THE JOKER!"—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: Do BATMAN and ROBIN have one of those gadgets for removing dust from the hair? I've always wondered just how it's used in fighting crime.

David Beckman, Syosset, N. Y.

(Like a powerful vacuum cleaner, this mechanism sucks up the tiniest dust particles that might be caught in a person's hair. By analyzing those particles, the crime-fighters can frequently prove the recent whereabouts of a suspect. For example, if he'd committed his crime in a coal cellar, his hair would likely contain particles of coal dust.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: In your BATMAN ANNUAL—the first story—there's a scene in the BAT-CAVE TROPHY ROOM showing a Lincoln Penny with the date 1901 on it? Any good coin collector knows that Lincoln Pennies weren't minted until 1909.

Larry Fenstermaker, Stockton, Calif.

(We've received a number of letters on this point from hawk-eyed readers. That 1901 penny was a giant one, made by a criminal whom BATMAN and ROBIN had captured—not minted by the U.S. government. Obviously, his knowledge of coins was not as sharp as yours! —Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: I'm looking forward to another story in which BATMAN and ROBIN become opponents of SUPERMAN. Please let me know when we'll see this happen again.

Rube Lawrence, Council Bluffs, Iowa

(Your long wait is over, Rube. In the DECEMBER issue of WORLD'S FINEST COMICS, No. 122, the caped crime-fighters match wits with the Man of Steel in an astounding duel, as they're forced to bring about "THE CAPTURE OF SUPERMAN!"—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: You sometimes show BATMAN impersonating a criminal, in order to do undercover investigation. How is he able to imitate the voice and mannerisms so perfectly?

Anton Franke, Duluth, Minn.

(In addition to being a fine actor, BATMAN maintains a film library which enables him to study closely the movements and mannerisms of the person he wishes to impersonate. He also keeps a voice file—tape recordings of criminals' voices—which aids him in learning how they speak.—Ed.)

BIG-BIG-BIG NEWS

ABOUT A SMALL-SMALL-SMALL SUPER-HERO

The ATOM

HE CAN INSTANTLY SHRINK IN SIZE FROM SIX FEET TO SIX INCHES TO SIX MICRO-INCHES *(A MICRO-INCH IS ONE ONE-MILLIONTH OF AN INCH)!*

HE HAS THE EXPLOSIVE POWER OF AN ATOM BOMB IN HIS FISTS!

HE CAN SPEED FROM PLACE TO PLACE BY TRAVELING THROUGH TELEPHONE WIRES!

SHOWCASE presents
The ATOM
UP AN' AT 'EM, ATOM! SMASH THAT FIREBALL MENACE!
Featuring THE WORLD'S SMALLEST SUPER-HERO!
in "DOOMS from BEYOND!"

Don't miss this exciting issue of **DC**'s newest costumed hero in

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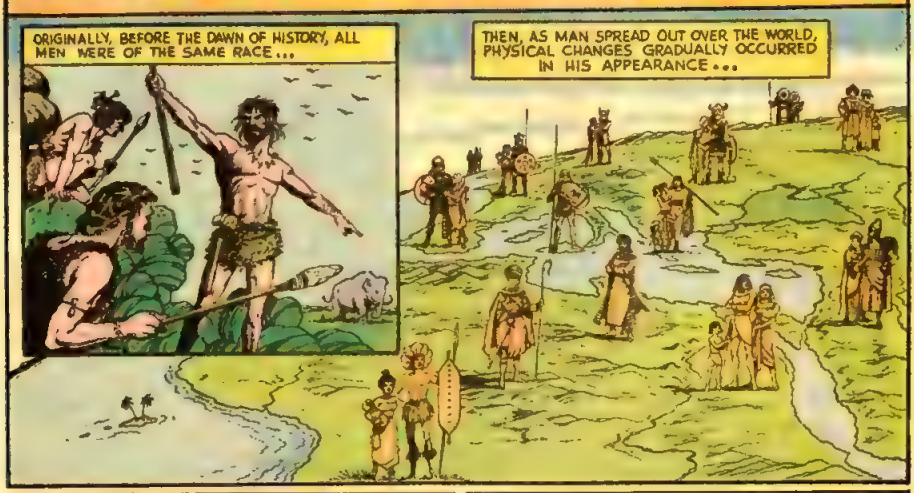
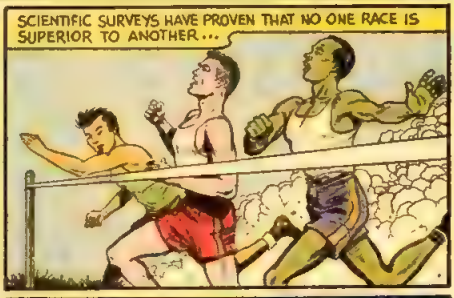
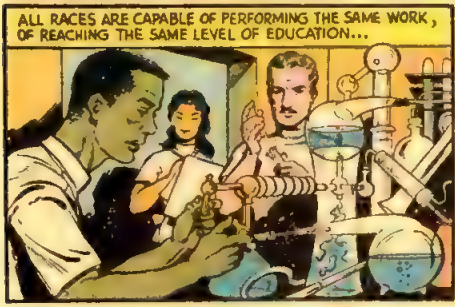
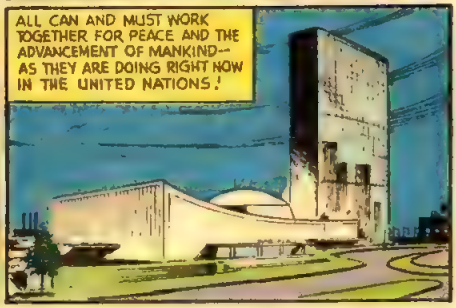
PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE!


ORIGINALLY, BEFORE THE DAWN OF HISTORY, ALL MEN WERE OF THE SAME RACE...
THEN, AS MAN SPREAD OUT OVER THE WORLD, PHYSICAL CHANGES GRADUALLY OCCURRED IN HIS APPEARANCE...

DEPENDING ON WHERE THEY HAD MIGRATED TO, SOME MEN BECAME DARKER, SOME LIGHTER, SOME LARGER, SOME SMALLER...
BUT BASICALLY, THEY REMAINED THE SAME HUMANS!

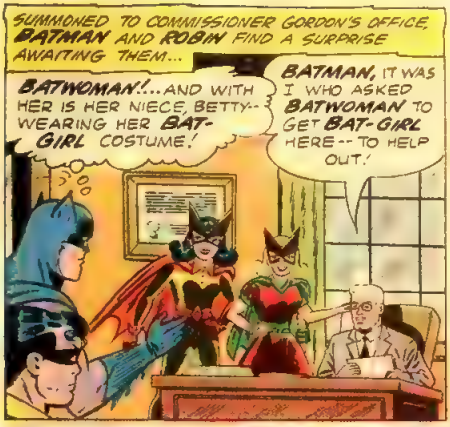


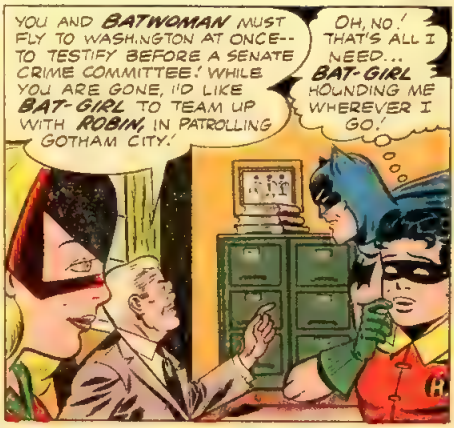


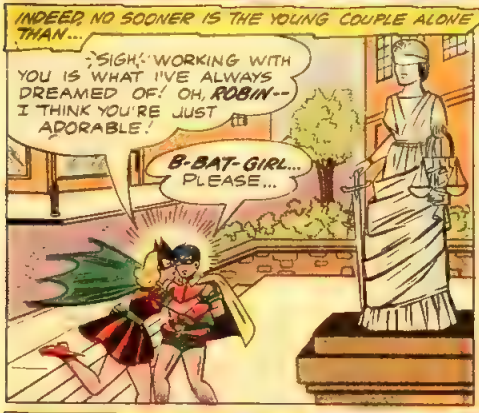


PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY, COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U. S.

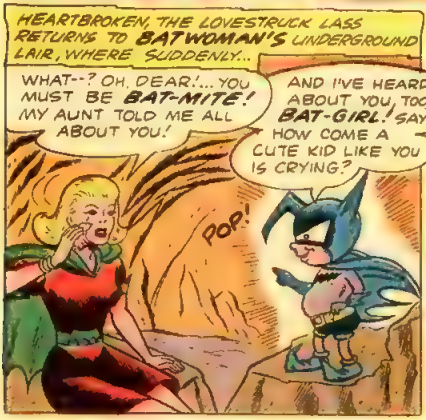
BAT MAN
With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
WATCH OUT!... BAT-GIRL'S BACK--AND SO IS BAT-MITE! WHEN THOSE TWO ARE AROUND, ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN--AND USUALLY DOES! YOU CAN IMAGINE THE DOUBLE-TROUBLE IN STORE WHEN BAT-MITE DECIDES TO TEAM UP WITH BAT-GIRL IN HER CAMPAIGN TO WIN ROBIN'S AFFECTIONS! SO SETTLE BACK AND WATCH THE FIREWORKS, WHEN...
BAT-MITE MEETS BAT-GIRL
"HA, HA! WITH A LITTLE ASSIST FROM ME, BAT-GIRL IS PULLING A STUNT THAT'S MAKING ROBIN'S EYES POP!
BOB KANE

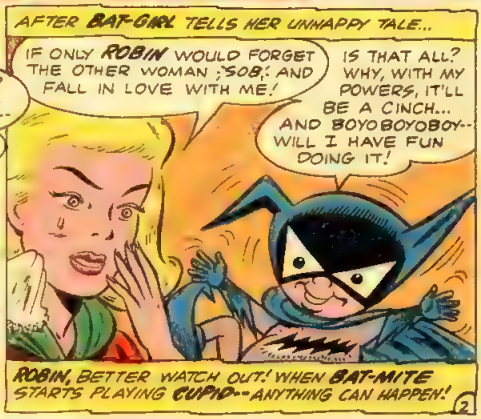

SUMMONED TO COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE, BATMAN AND ROBIN FIND A SURPRISE AWAITING THEM...
BATWOMAN!... AND WITH HER IS HER NIECE, BETTY--WEARING HER BAT-GIRL COSTUME!
BATMAN, IT WAS I WHO ASKED BATWOMAN TO GET BAT-GIRL HERE--TO HELP OUT!


YOU AND BATWOMAN MUST FLY TO WASHINGTON AT ONCE--TO TESTIFY BEFORE A SENATE CRIME COMMITTEE! WHILE YOU ARE GONE, I'D LIKE BAT-GIRL TO TEAM UP WITH ROBIN, IN PATROLLING GOTHAM CITY!
OH, NO! THAT'S ALL I NEED... BAT-GIRL HOUNDING ME WHEREVER I GO!

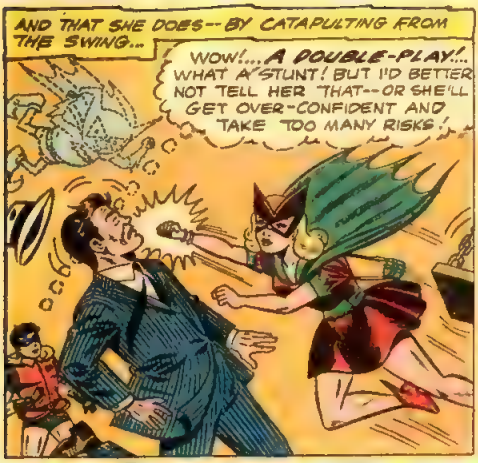

INDEED, NO SOONER IS THE YOUNG COUPLE ALONE THAN...
;SIGH;! WORKING WITH YOU IS WHAT I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF! OH, ROBIN--I THINK YOU'RE JUST ADORABLE!
B-BAT-GIRL... PLEASE...

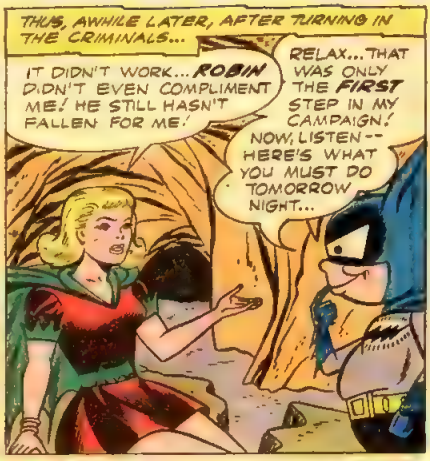
Y-YOU'VE JUST GOT TO STOP DOING THAT! IT--IT ISN'T RIGHT, ESPECIALLY SINCE I'M... ER... DEVOTED TO ANOTHER WOMAN!
ANOTHER WOMAN? OH, ROBIN... ;SOB;! Y-YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT!

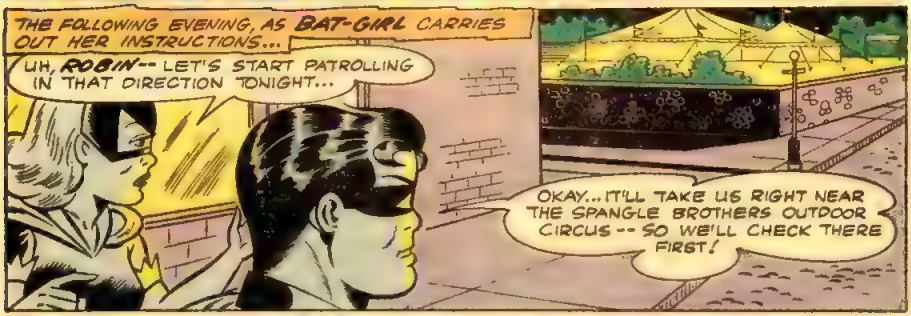

HEARTBROKEN, THE LOVESTRUCK LASS RETURNS TO BATWOMAN'S UNDERGROUND LAIR, WHERE SUDDENLY...
WHAT--? OH, DEAR!... YOU MUST BE BAT-MITE! MY AUNT TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU!
AND I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU, TOO, BAT-GIRL! SAY--HOW COME A CUTE KID LIKE YOU IS CRYING?
POP!

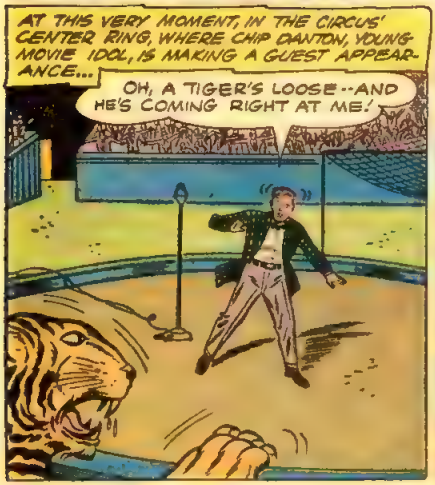

AFTER BAT-GIRL TELLS HER UNHAPPY TALE...
IF ONLY ROBIN WOULD FORGET THE OTHER WOMAN ;SOB; AND FALL IN LOVE WITH ME!
IS THAT ALL? WHY, WITH MY POWERS, IT'LL BE A CINCH... AND BOYOBOYOBOY--WILL I HAVE FUN DOING IT!
ROBIN, BETTER WATCH OUT! WHEN BAT-MITE STARTS PLAYING CUPID--ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN!

THAT NIGHT, MEETING AT AN APPOINTED SPOT, BAT-GIRL AND THE BOY WONDER BEGIN THEIR PATROL, WHEN...
OHHH... HELP.. BANDITS.. ATTACKED ME..
THE NIGHT WATCHMAN FROM THE GOTHAM PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT COMPANY.' LET'S GO, BAT-GIRL!
AS ROBIN LEADS THE WAY, HE IS UNAWARE THAT AN INVISIBLE FIGURE HAS FOLLOWED...
PSSST! BAT-GIRL, THIS IS WHERE YOU MAKE ROBIN'S EYES POP -- WITH MY HELP, OF COURSE.' TEE-HEE.'
AS THE BANDITS SPLIT UP IN AN EFFORT TO ESCAPE THE CHARGING CRIME-FIGHTERS...
BAT-GIRL, TRY TO STALL THE OTHER TWO, TILL I CAN GIVE YOU A HAND.'
INSTANTLY, BAT-GIRL LEAPS TO A SWING, AND...
GOOD GIRL! NOW I'LL USE MY POWERS TO SEND THIS THUG FLYING MORE THAN NORMAL -- AND CONTROL THE SECOND THUG'S FEET SO THAT HE WALKS ON THE SEE-SAW.'
OOF!
THAT DONE -- THE INEVITABLE HAPPENS...
HA, HA.' NOW BAT-GIRL CAN FINISH THE JOB!
3

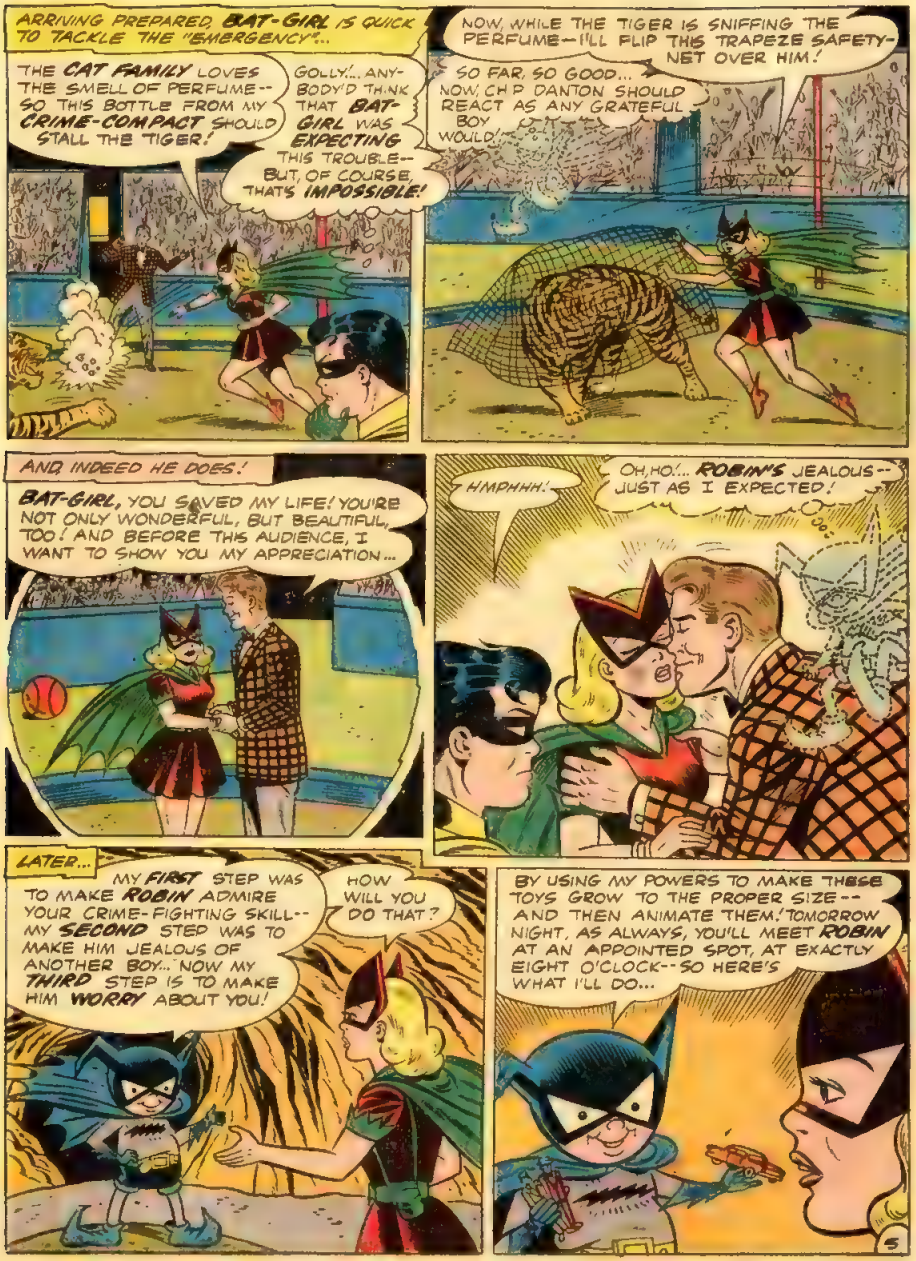

AND THAT SHE DOES -- BY CATAPULTING FROM THE SWING...
WOW!... A DOUBLE-PLAY!... WHAT A STUNT! BUT I'D BETTER NOT TELL HER THAT -- OR SHE'LL GET OVER-CONFIDENT AND TAKE TOO MANY RISKS!


THUS, AWHILE LATER, AFTER TURNING IN THE CRIMINALS...
IT DIDN'T WORK... ROBIN DIDN'T EVEN COMPLIMENT ME! HE STILL HASN'T FALLEN FOR ME!
RELAX... THAT WAS ONLY THE FIRST STEP IN MY CAMPAIGN! NOW, LISTEN -- HERE'S WHAT YOU MUST DO TOMORROW NIGHT...


THE FOLLOWING EVENING, AS BAT-GIRL CARRIES OUT HER INSTRUCTIONS...
UH, ROBIN -- LET'S START PATROLLING IN THAT DIRECTION TONIGHT...
OKAY... IT'LL TAKE US RIGHT NEAR THE SPANGLE BROTHERS OUTDOOR CIRCUS -- SO WE'LL CHECK THERE FIRST!


AT THIS VERY MOMENT, IN THE CIRCUS' CENTER RING, WHERE CHIP DANTON, YOUNG MOVIE IDOL, IS MAKING A GUEST APPEARANCE...
OH, A TIGER'S LOOSE -- AND HE'S COMING RIGHT AT ME!

BUT NO ONE IS AWARE OF AN INVISIBLE FIGURE RIDING THE TIGER...
THAT LAD IS IN NO DANGER, SINCE I'M CONTROLLING THIS ANIMAL! I'VE ALREADY SIGNALED TO BAT-GIRL, SO SHE CAN GO INTO ACTION AS WE PLANNED!


ARRIVING PREPARED, BAT-GIRL IS QUICK TO TACKLE THE "EMERGENCY"...
THE CAT FAMILY LOVES THE SMELL OF PERFUME--SO THIS BOTTLE FROM MY CRIME-COMPACT SHOULD STALL THE TIGER!
GOLLY!... ANYBODY'D THINK THAT BAT-GIRL WAS EXPECTING THIS TROUBLE--BUT, OF COURSE, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
NOW, WHILE THE TIGER IS SNIFFING THE PERFUME--I'LL FLIP THIS TRAPEZE SAFETY-NET OVER HIM!
SO FAR, SO GOOD... NOW, CHIP DANTON SHOULD REACT AS ANY GRATEFUL BOY WOULD!
AND, INDEED HE DOES!
BAT-GIRL, YOU SAVED MY LIFE! YOU'RE NOT ONLY WONDERFUL, BUT BEAUTIFUL, TOO! AND BEFORE THIS AUDIENCE, I WANT TO SHOW YOU MY APPRECIATION...
HMPHHH!
OH, HO!... ROBIN'S JEALOUS--JUST AS I EXPECTED!
LATER...
MY FIRST STEP WAS TO MAKE ROBIN ADMIRE YOUR CRIME-FIGHTING SKILL--MY SECOND STEP WAS TO MAKE HIM JEALOUS OF ANOTHER BOY... NOW MY THIRD STEP IS TO MAKE HIM WORRY ABOUT YOU!
HOW WILL YOU DO THAT?
BY USING MY POWERS TO MAKE THESE TOYS GROW TO THE PROPER SIZE--AND THEN ANIMATE THEM! TOMORROW NIGHT, AS ALWAYS, YOU'LL MEET ROBIN AT AN APPOINTED SPOT, AT EXACTLY EIGHT O'CLOCK--SO HERE'S WHAT I'LL DO...
5

THE NEXT NIGHT, HOWEVER, BAT-GIRL IS SO ANXIOUS, SHE'S AT THE MEETING PLACE EARLIER THAN USUAL...
BAT-MITE'S PLAN IS TO MAKE THE ANIMATED FIGURES LOOK LIKE GANGSTERS WHO WILL ABDUCT ME IN THE "GETAWAY CAR," JUST AS ROBIN APPROACHES! HE'LL WORRY ABOUT ME--FIND A "CLUE"--RESCUE ME--AND THEN REALIZE HOW MUCH HE CARES FOR ME! I HOPE IT WORKS!
BUT, AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT--REAL THUGS SUDDENLY APPEAR, AND...
LOOK!... BAT-GIRL--ALONE! THIS IS OUR CHANCE! WE'LL GRAB HER AND TAKE HER ALONG ON OUR JOB...
YEAH--SHE'LL BE OUR "INSURANCE," IN CASE COPS TRY TO STOP US!
THINKING THEY ARE BAT-MITE'S CREATIONS, BAT-GIRL ALLOWS HERSELF TO BE EASILY OVERCOME...
QUICK--SHOVE HER INSIDE!
WAIT!... A THIRD MAN! THAT MEANS THESE ARE REAL THUGS!
SHORTLY, WHEN THE INVISIBLE BAT-MITE ARRIVES...
BAT-GIRL SHOULD'VE BEEN HERE BY NOW! ISN'T THAT JUST LIKE A WOMAN--TO BE LATE FOR AN APPOINTMENT!
SOON, ROBIN ARRIVES--AND HE, TOO, WAITS IMPATIENTLY, UNTIL HIS KEEN EYES SPY SOMETHING...
WHY--IT'S THE BOTTLE OF LUMINOUS INK THAT BAT-GIRL KEEPS IN HER CRIME-COMPACT! THAT MEANS SHE WAS HERE--AND LEFT IT AS A CLUE! SHE'S IN TROUBLE!
YIPES! THAT EXPLAINS EVERYTHING! THIS IS AWFUL! POOR BAT-GIRL!
BAT-MITE! WHAT...?
ROBIN, I'VE A CONFESSION TO MAKE; GULP! AND I HOPE YOU WON'T BE TOO ANGRY...
POW!

AFTER EXPLAINING...
D-DO YOU THINK YOU CAN FORGIVE ME?
RIGHT NOW, I CAN ONLY THINK OF THIS BOTTLE! IT'S NEARLY EMPTY--WHICH MEANS THAT IN THE STRUGGLE, SHE MANAGED TO SPLASH THE INK ON A CAR--SO THE INK WOULD DRIP OFF AND LEAVE A LUMINOUS TRAIL!
WE'D BE ABLE TO SEE A LUMINOUS TRAIL EASIER FROM THE AIR... I'LL GET THE WHIRLY-BAT FROM THE BATMOBILE!
DON'T BOTHER... I'LL HAVE THAT SEA GULL GIVE US A LIFT!
WITH HIS UNCANNY MAGIC, BAT-MITE TURNS THE BIRD INTO A GIGANTIC CREATURE, SO THAT...
SEE THE TRAIL BETTER NOW?
YES--WE CAN'T MISS FINDING BAT-GIRL NOW!
LATER, AS THE BANDITS CRACK THE SAFE OF A COMPANY THAT MAKES GOLD-PLATED SPORTS TROPHIES...
THIS GOLD SUPPLY... WHAT A HAUL!
AND I'M GOING TO HAUL YOU ALL RIGHT TO JAIL!
ROBIN!
HOLD IT, ROBIN! YOU'RE GONNA LET US GET AWAY--OR THIS KID GETS HURT!
I CAN'T RISK BAT-GIRL'S SAFETY...I'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO LET THEM ESCAPE!
7

ROBIN--FORGET ABOUT ME! YOU MUSTN'T LET THEM GET AWAY!
I--I CAN'T...
I THINK IT'S TIME I DID SOMETHING TO HELP THESE YOUNGSTERS!
AGAIN, BAT-MITE PUTS HIS REMARKABLE EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL POWERS TO WORK...
YIIII! THE GOLD-TROPHIES HAVE GROWN--AND COME TO LIFE! LET'S GET OUTA HERE!
I DON'T THINK THEY'LL GIVE YOU ANY TROUBLE NOW, KIDS...HA, HA, HA!
YOW!
OOF!
UHHH!
LATER, AFTER DELIVERING THE CROOKS TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
ROBIN, I WAS A FOOL TO TRY TO GET YOU TO CARE FOR ME--BUT I WAS SO JEALOUS OF THAT OTHER WOMAN!
I UNDERSTAND--AND I THINK IT'S TIME I SHOWED YOU THAT "OTHER WOMAN" I'M DEVOTED TO!
THERE SHE IS--YOUR RIVAL!
THE STATUE OF JUSTICE?

YES, YOU SEE, BATMAN HAS OFTEN TOLD ME THAT HIS CRIME-FIGHTING CAREER IS A FULL-TIME JOB, AND THAT HE CAN'T RISK A BIG ROMANCE NOW--NOT UNTIL HE'S READY TO RETIRE! IF BATMAN CAN MAKE THAT KIND OF SACRIFICE, I GUESS I'M MAN ENOUGH TO DO IT, TOO!
AT THAT INSTANT...
WE JUST GOT BACK, AND I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID! ROBIN, THERE'S TIME ENOUGH FOR YOU TO MAKE THAT KIND OF DECISION AND SACRIFICE, WHEN YOU'RE REALLY GROWN UP! RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE STILL A TEEN-AGER, YOU KNOW...
OH, ROBIN--THEN IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR ME TO KISS YOU NOW!
WELL...IT LOOKS LIKE MY WORK IS FINISHED--SO I MIGHT AS WELL GO HOME!
9
I'LL BE SEEING YOU AGAIN... SOON...
GOOD-BYE--"CUPID"!
POP!
THE End

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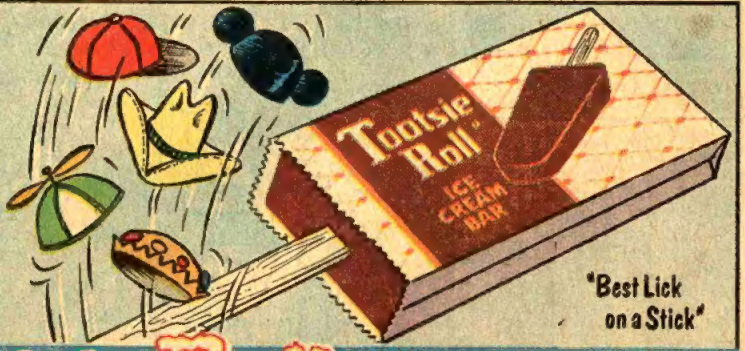

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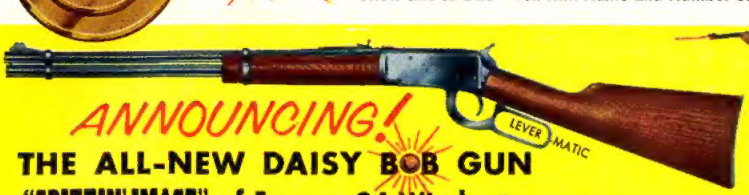

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